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January 25, 2000 LB 120, 352, 480, 898, 911, 920, 923, 983

Services reports LB 898 to General File; LB 920, LB 923, LB 983, LB 1005 to General File; LB 352 to General File with amendments; and LB 911 indefinitely postponed. Hearing notices from the Appropriations Committee, signed by Senator Wehrbein, as Chair. And Senator Schimek has an amendment to LB 480 to be printed, Mr. President. That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal pages 416-417.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. General File.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 120, originally introduced by Senator Crosby. (Read title.) The bill was introduced in January of last year, at that time referred to Judiciary. The bill was presented yesterday, Mr. President. Senator Crosby, I believe, opened on the bill. Senator Brashear offered the committee amendments. The committee amendments are pending at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Crosby, would you like to take a moment and discuss the premise of the bill?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President. Just very quickly, you'll remember when we finished yesterday we were on the amendment, the committee amendments. And you'll notice that the bill came out of committee with only one vote against. And I do think that the committee was beginning to understand and seeing what we were getting at, that it is a happy circumstance if a couple can come to a joint custody agreement. And if the courts take a first look at that, I think that will be a furtherance of trying to keep children with both parents helping to guide them and educate them and support them. So. I know it's very difficult for people sometimes to do that because, when you're upset with each other and you're getting a divorce, you don't have very good feelings. But I do know of one couple, and they happen to live...they live in Illinois, but I heard just recently that since the divorce, and they worked out some kind of agreement as to visitation and how they would work with each other to be sure the children were okay, that this couple has been more civil to each other than they had ever been before during their married life. So maybe some good would come out of that, and I would hope maybe that would be a good example.